



“My Sin, My Responsibility” (Ezekiel 18)

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I. THE TEXT

- vv.1-2 What does this proverb mean? It means the people were blaming their parents for the situation they found themselves in. They were quoting it in the land of Israel during Jeremiah’s ministry (see Jer.31:29-30). But they also were quoting it in Babylon.
- How easy it is to blame others for the situation you find yourself in. Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the devil, and in doing so, neither one took personal responsibility for their failure.
- vv.3-4 This chapter will settle the question of how to interpret Ex.20:5; 34:6-7; Num.14:18; Deut.7:9-10; Matt.23:35-36. One may suffer circumstantially as a result of their parents’ sin, but they never have to suffer spiritually/eternally. We are all in the same situation corporately in regard to sin, but we each have an individual responsibility in regard to righteousness.
- vv.5-9 We know from Scripture that God is not saying this man is righteous based on his good works, but rather his good works give evidence of a heart that has been regenerated. This will be confirmed for us at the end of the chapter.
- vv.10-13 The point is that the son can receive no credit from his father’s righteousness. The son will be held accountable for his own choices/actions.
- vv.14-18 The point again is clear. Regardless how wicked your father or mother are, you have a personal choice whether to be like them or not.
- vv.19-20 Once again, they had misinterpreted Ex.20:5, etc. (see above under vv.3-4).

- vv.21-22 Here God must have blown some of their minds. He says that if anywhere along the road of life a person repents, their past sins, no matter how great, will be not only be forgiven, but will not be remembered by the Lord. WOW!
- v.23 Here God reveals his heart for people. God desires that every individual repent and be saved. See Matthew 23:37; Luke 19:41-44; Luke 15 (God's heart); II Peter 3:8-9.
- v.24 Genuineness is proven by longevity. See Heb.10:35-39
- vv.25-29 You can blame God, you can disagree with God, you can argue that you fail to completely understand God and His ways. But, like it or not, we will ultimately be held accountable to God.
- vv.30-32 God's exhortation based on God's obligation. God is obligated by His very nature to judge all men, because he created all men. But God's desire is not to judge man based on his sin, but to judge him based on his offer of grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

II. LESSONS

1. Just because you are a godly parent is no guarantee that your child will be godly (Samuel's two sons, I Sam.8:1-3).
2. Just because you are a pagan parent does not mean your child has to be like you (Hezekiah – Manasseh – Amon – Josiah).
3. Each individual will be judged for his/her own sin, not someone else's (Deut. 14:16; II Kings 14:6; Jer.31:30)
4. Every individual has an equal opportunity to repent and be saved. We are neither prisoners of the past nor captive to the sins of others. See Gen.4:7.
5. Once someone genuinely repents, the past is forgiven (v.22; Isa.43:25; 53:6; Jer.31:34b; Micah 7:18-19; Psalm 32:1; Matthew 9:2; Luke 7:48.
6. God wants all men to repent and be saved.

CONCLUSION

- I Tim.2:1-4